

Title I Planning Summit

*Tucker County Schools
Parsons, West Virginia*

Representatives from supplementary school services in the Tucker County Schools took time to refine their planning process, and ensure that all the agencies were working toward the same mission—helping all students learn. The small district’s Title I Planning Summit called on school administrators, parents, teachers, and officials from nine programs—such as Reading First and 21st Century Learning Centers—to align priorities so that they could manage limited school resources to achieve maximum results.

The district’s Title I director provided the impetus for the project, after attending the fall conference of the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS). He focused the summit’s agenda, acted as facilitator, and assembled the planning partners. He also organized school data and arranged for support from several sources. He wanted to find ways to help all of the departments and agencies in the district collaborate better.

Before the summit, it seemed that services, such as Title I, Reading First, and special education, all had common goals, but did not necessarily work together to achieve them. “The need for effective communication and planning is imperative,” said the Title I director. He wanted to create a sustainable framework of partnerships to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind.

Officials publicized the event in e-mail blasts, newsletters, telephone calls, and the local newspaper. Organizers set up information kiosks at sporting and community events to advertise the summit.

The summit took place for three hours on two days—one day at each of the district’s Title I schools. The meetings were held during the school day to make it easy for teachers and business partners to attend. About 25 people worked in teams on laptops to discuss and prioritize district needs and resources. By the

end of the summit, participants had put together a common vision for the district and ways to ensure that the vision could be carried out in all of the schools. Each Action Team for Partnership (ATP) created and submitted an action plan for the next school year.

“It was a great help in preparation for next year,” one person said. “We’re definitely working together,” another attendee noted.

The summit cost about \$1,700. District officials tapped budgets from several of the participating departments and programs to cover expenses. The next summit will focus on the results this strategic planning has in area schools.

*Bob Dunkerly
Director of Federal Programs
(304) 478-2771
rdunkerl@access.k12.wv.us*